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For her outstanding contributions—to botany through research, teaching, and administration; to ornamental horticulture; to local and international conservation causes; and to humanitarianism and compassion wherever she is—volume 26 of MADROÑO is dedicated to MILDRED ESTHER MATHIAS. Dr. Mathias was Vice-President of the California Botanical Society in 1955 and served as Editorial Board member for MADROÑO from 1941 to 1970. She has published nearly 200 articles and books, many of them (over a 50-year span) on Umbelliferae. Her contributions to knowledge of this family, partly in an enduring collaboration with Lincoln Constance, are unexcelled. Many of her students are themselves eminent botanists and have proclaimed their debt to her. As Director of the UCLA Botanical Garden and founding force behind the Las Cruces and Lankester Botanical Gardens in Costa Rica, she has added to the beauty of our world and saved precious genetic stocks. Locally she has led and developed the University of California's Natural Land and Water Reserves System (which has set aside 26 units encompassing a great diversity of California's habitat types), the California Natural Areas Coordinating Council, the California Consortium for Significant Natural Areas, the California Conservation Council, and the Southern California Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. She was founder, teacher, Board member, and President of the Organization for Tropical Studies, which has done more to show U.S. graduate students the excitement and critical need for work in tropical botany and ecology than all other sources combined. She is an untiring and effective force in more international conservation efforts than can be specified. The scientific societies in which she has been elected President and major awards to her are too numerous to mention. Mildred, your pioneering spirit, unbelievable energy, wit, humor, warmth, and effectiveness as a leader have made the world a brighter, greener, and more compassionate place for all of us. We salute you.

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